

Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Judy and Gary on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, October 22nd marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith. There are more than five million Baha'is around the world, including in my district in South Florida. Over the weekend, they came together to celebrate the bicentenary of Baha'u'llah's birth by honoring his life and his teachings.

Like many religious leaders, Baha'u'llah taught of the unity of mankind and the need for us to work to build better communities and a better world. Baha'is believe that Baha'u'llah was God's most recent messenger and that all religions should live in harmony. This religious tolerance is an important message in a world where we too often see religious oppression.

In fact, Baha'u'llah was born in Tehran but was imprisoned and exiled for his teachings. Today, Baha'is in Iran are still openly persecuted for their faith. Baha'i youth are often deprived of access to higher education and public jobs, Baha'i-owned businesses are frequently attacked, and Baha'i cemeteries are desecrated and disrespected. Baha'is are vilified in state sponsored media and their leaders are arbitrarily arrested and cruelly held in Iran's notorious prisons.

That is why I was proud to introduce H. Res. 274 with a bipartisan group of colleagues to condemn Iran's human rights violations, particularly its persecution of its Baha'i minority, and urge sanctions against officials who have carried out these abuses. This resolution passed unanimously through the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, of which I am Ranking Member, and I look forward to moving it through the full Committee and to the House Floor.

The bicentenary, though, is about celebration and shared optimism for the future. I'm pleased to join with my colleagues in congratulating Baha'is around the world, and in Florida in particular, as they celebrate this festive and momentous occasion.

HONORING THE CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY: GREATER WASHINGTON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington for its contributions to the District of Columbia and the region on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington was founded in 2003 by Barbara Harman, who recognized the need to identify and highlight the best community-based nonprofits in the region.

It has built the foundation of its success based on a rigorous vetting process that is implemented by local experts to ensure excellence in the programming, finances and impact of selected nonprofits. In addition, the organization raises the visibility and resources of these nonprofits, connects them with philanthropic dollars that fuel their growth and works to create a movement for social good in the D.C. region.

The organization also has a tradition of advocating for and supporting nonprofits through capacity-building programs designed to strengthen them in the face of rapid change.

Since it began, the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington has demonstrated its impact by raising over \$40 million for charities in its network, including 200 organizations that operate in the District.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the leaders of the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington and their commitment to create a stronger, more resilient, more hopeful community that is a better place to live for everyone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, on October 11, 2017, I was unable to cast my votes during the second series due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on H.R. 452—To designate the facility of the United States Post Office located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the "Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office" (Rep. LUETKEMEYER—Oversight and Government Reform); and YES on H.R. 3243—FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017 (Rep. CONNOLLY—Oversight and Government Reform).

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY WOHLERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry

Wohlens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his retirement after 34 years of service with the Council Bluffs Fire Department.

Larry began his public service career in the Council Bluffs Public Works Department before he joined the local fire department. He was hired in September of 1983 as a firefighter. Larry then began moving through the ranks as a captain, assistant chief, and was ultimately promoted to Fire Marshall in 2008. Council Bluffs Fire Chief Justin James said, "It's going to be a huge loss for the department. Larry has done a great job."

Mr. Speaker, Larry has made a difference in his community by helping and serving others. It is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th anniversary of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Newport News, Virginia.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church had humble beginnings. Originally known as Warwick Parish, and then as St. Paul's Church, its mission was started in 1897 with the intention of providing a religious community for African-American Episcopalians. The church was started with neither a full-time pastor nor an official building, so the congregation ran their early services out of the upper floor of the Columba Opera House in Newport News. Reverend Joseph F. Mitchell became the first vicar for St. Paul's Mission in the fall of 1897 and spent the next six years of his ministry trying to grow the parish and raise enough funds to afford to build a chapel for the congregation.

Under the leadership of Reverend Adolphus A. Birch, the church's sixth rector, the name of the mission was officially changed to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in 1924. Reverend Birch's successor, Reverend J.J. Posey, oversaw the church's move into their official building on Marshall Avenue at Twenty-Sixth Street in Newport News. The congregation still meets at this location in a new church building that was constructed in 1962 under the leadership of Reverend Lloyd M. Alexander.

Today, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is home to a thriving parish life with a variety of ministries and programs aimed at bettering the congregation as well as the Newport News community. The Feeding Program was established in 1988 and offers hot meals to hungry adults and children every month. The Twelve Steps Program meets five days every week to extend counseling, support, and mentorship for men and women in the area who are struggling with substance abuse. The church also sponsors a yearly "Back to School Drive" which ensures that local children can begin the school year with a backpack and school supplies that they might struggle to otherwise